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Public Hearing Testimony
To the Insurance and Real Estate Committee in support of
Senate Bill 17, An Act Concerning Wellness Programs
and Expansion of Health Insurance Coverage
February 3, 2011

My name is Dawn Apuzzo. I'm a 42 year old single parent from North Haven who has had Alopecia Areata since I was about 13-14 years old. Alopecia is unknown hair loss. Doctors couldn't tell me why I lost my hair and this was quite devastating for me to be diagnosed with at such a young age. I was eventually told by the doctor that not only did I lose my hair but that my hair loss would be permanent. This was very hard to accept at first mainly due to my age. But as the years have passed, it has been easier to accept with each year that goes by. I'm at the point in my life that I just "plop & go" in the morning before leaving my house. I wear a wig not for cosmetic reasons but as a necessity because society doesn't accept female baldness as they accept male baldness, therefore, I will have to wear a wig for the rest of my life. Since that is the case, then I feel I should be able to have the benefit of my medical insurance covering up to \$350.00 a year for a wig just as a cancer patient has right now. I'm living proof that there are reasons for hair loss other than being a cancer/chemotherapy patient. The only difference is once a cancer patient stops chemotherapy his or her hair will grow back leaving the wig not necessary any longer. Alopecia is a medical condition that I cannot help that I have just as a person cannot help it if they get cancer. I strongly feel that I should not be discriminated against or excluded from a benefit that should include all medical reasons for hair loss and not just specifically cancer.